

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Notwithstanding the reply to the question, the Government is taking following preventive steps to ensure that farm produce do not have residues of pesticides beyond the permissible levels:—

- (i) Registration of pesticide is a mandatory requirement under the purview of Insecticides Act, 1968. The Registration Committee Constituted under the Act grants the registration for manufacture, import and use of pesticides. The Committee has laid down comprehensive technical guidelines stipulating data requirement *inter-alia* terminal pesticides residues on agricultural commodities/farm produce. The pesticides having terminal residues less than the prescribed limit at the time of harvest are only registered for use.
- (ii) As a part of mandatory requirement under the Act, approved label/leaflet by the Committee printed in Hindi, English and in one of the regional languages accompany each container of pesticides. The leaflet contain various vital information on use of pesticides *inter-alia* safety, interval between last spray and the harvest of agricultural produce to avoid any possible hazard to the consumer.
- (iii) The Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management which relies more on non-chemical method of pest control and use of biorational like botanicals, biocides etc. As a last resort safer chemical pesticides are recommended for judicious use to avoid terminal residues of such chemicals in agricultural commodities and environment. Consequently, consumption of chemical pesticides in the country has shown downward trend during last 3 years.

Mineral Water Project

3309. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mineral water market is growing at the rate of 40% and estimated current investment is Rs. 300 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Dairy Development Board has launched its own brand of mineral water;

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it is likely to help NDDB in its finances; and

(e) the steps taken for its competition in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The sales turnover of the mineral water industry is estimated at Rs. 300 crores and the market is growing approximately at 40% per annum.

(c) to (e) : The NDDB has launched a mineral water project under the brand name "Jal Dhara" using the facilities at the Alwar Milk Union in Rajasthan. Jal Dhara is priced lower than the price fixed by its competitors. The project is expected to help the Alwar Union to generate additional income and help in its rehabilitation efforts.

[Translation]

Safai Karamcharies

3310. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI D.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Safai Karamcharis identified under the national scheme for emancipation and rehabilitation of safai karamcharis and their dependents, Statewise;

(b) the State provided with assistance under the said scheme and the States who have not been provided with assistance;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement the said scheme in Bihar also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The number of Safai Karamcharis identified so far, Statewise, as reported by the States/UTs under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents, are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details are given in the Statement-II enclosed.